

Hak Cipta Dilindungi Undang-Undang

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## CHAPTER II

### REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

#### A Theoretical Framework

##### 1. The Nature of English Article

Article is a part of grammar. In English there are three articles *a*, *an*, and *the*.

###### a. The Use of Article A or An

Indefinite article (*a* or *an*) is used refer to a particular person or thing when the listener or reader doesn't know which one is being describe. Indefinite article (*a* or *an*) also can use to refer to a member of a group in order to refer the whole group. Moreover, Azar & Hagen (2011, p. 312) said that **A** and **An** are used:

1. **A** and **an** are used in front of a singular noun (e.g., pencil, apartment). They mean "one"
2. If a singular noun is modified by an adjective (e.g., small, old), **a** or **an** comes in front of the adjective

Ex: I have **a** small apartment

I have **an** old apartment

3. **A** is used in front of words that begin with a consonant sound (*b*, *c*, *d*, *f*, *g*, etc)

Ex: He is a bad boy

A cute baby

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4. **An** is used in front of words that begin with the vowel sound (*a*, *e*, *I*, and *o*)

Ex:    An apartment  
           An angry man  
           An elephant

5. For words that begin with the letter **u**:

- (a) **An** is used if the **u** is a vowel sound,

Ex:        An umbrella  
               An uncle  
               An unusual day

- (b) **A** is used if the **u** is a consonant sound

Ex:        A university  
               A unit  
               A usual event

Because the ‘u’ in *university*, *unit* and *usual* make the ‘Y’ sound which is a consonant sound (cited in Klems, 2012)

6. For words that begin with the letter **h**:

- (a) **An** is used if the **h** is silent

Ex:        An hour  
               An honor  
               An honest person

Because the ‘h’ in *hour*, *honor* and *honest* sounds like it starts with ‘O’ (cited in Klems: 2012)

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(b) **A** is used if the **h** is pronounced

Ex:           A holiday  
                   A hotel  
                   A high point

According to Eastwood (2002, p. 199) mentioned that article *a* or *an* is used when an unidentified specimen is introduced. The form **A** is used before a word beginning with a consonant sound or a vowel with a consonant sound. The form **An** is used before a word beginning with a vowel sound (*a, e, I, o, u*) or words beginning with a mute *h*. Moreover, Eastwood said that *a* or *an* is used:

a) Before a singular noun which is countable (i.e. of which there is more than one) when it is mentioned for the first time and represents no particular person or thing.

Examples:

- 1) A shelf was put up
- 2) I need *a* visa
- 3) They lived in *a* flat
- 4) He bought *an* ice-cream

b) Before singular countable noun which is used as an example of a class of thing

Example: A car must be insured (all cars must be insured)

c) With a noun complement. This includes names of profession.

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Examples:

- 1) It was *an* earthquake
- 2) She will be *a* dancer
- d) In certain expression of quantity

Example: A couple of bird.

- e) With certain number
- f) In expression of price, speed, ratio, etc
- g) In exclamation before singular, countable nouns

Example: What A pretty girl!

In addition Khron (1971, p. 54) stated that the indefinite articles *a/an* is important in sentences of description or classification.

Ex: John is *a student*

Paris is *a city*

Krohn also mentioned that *a/an* are weak forms of *one*

Ex: One boy arrived late, not two

compare

A boy arrived late, not *a girl*

#### b. The Use of Article The

A speaker uses **the** when the speaker and the listener are thinking about the same specific person(s) or thing(s).

Azar & Hagen (2011, p. 327) said that **the** is used in front of:

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## 1. Singular count nouns

Ex: The dog

Did you feed the dog?

## 2. Plural count nouns

Ex: The dogs

I have some bananas and apples. I gave the bananas to Marry

## 3. Non-count nouns

Ex: The fruit

I can't hear you. The music is too loud.

Definite article (the) is used refer to particular thing or person when the listener or reader knows which one is being described. It can't be used for talking about people and things in general using plural or uncountable noun.

Refers to Khron (1971, p. 54), definite article *the* is used when:

- a) Noun which follows names an identified specimen that us the hearer knows which person, place or thing the noun refers to.

Ex: *The book* on Mr. Allens' desk is yellow

I like *the hat* that you are wearing

- b) Definite article *the* is not used with the name of person, language, most countries, streets or time of the day.

Ex: *Mr. Smith* is a teacher

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We are going to visit *Dr. Brown*

We are speaking *English*

*Spanish* is an important language

The Amazon River is in *Brazil*

John live on *State Street*

He goes to class at *eight o'clock*

- c) Article *the* is not used when the noun phrase refers to something in a very general way

Ex: John likes *milk*

Marry is studying *history*

- d) Article *the* is generally a part of the name of a university or college when that name also include a phrase beginning with the preposition *of*

Ex: *The University of Illinois*

*The University of Michigan*

*The University of California*

As Thompson (1986, p. 19) explained that article *the* also placed:

- a) When the object or group of objects in unique or consider to be unique

Examples:

1) *The earth*

2) *The sky*

3) *The stars*

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- b) Before a noun made definite by the addition of a phrase or clause  
Example: *The* place where I met him
- c) Before a noun which by reason of locality can represent only one particular thing  
Example: Ann is in *the* garden (the garden of this house)
- d) Before superlatives and only  
Examples:
  - 1) This is *the* only thing here
  - 2) That is *the* most beautiful place
- e) Don't use *the* before:
  - 1) Names of most countries or territories: Italy, Mexico, Bolivia; however, *the* Netherlands, *the* Dominican Republic, *the* Philippines, *the* United States.
  - 2) Names of cities, town, or states: Seoul, Manitoba, Miami.
  - 3) Names of streets: Washington Blvd, Main St.
  - 4) Names of lakes and bays: Lake Titicaca, Lake Erie except with the group of lakes like *the* Great Lakes
  - 5) Names of mountains: Mount Everest, Mount Fuji except with ranges of mountains like *the* Andes or *the* Rockies or unusual names like *the* Matterhorn.
  - 6) Names of continents: Asia, Europe.

- 7) Names of islands: Ester Island, Maui, Key West except with island chains like *the* Aleutians, *the* Hebrides, or *the* Canary Islands.

## B. Relevant Research

There are two relevant researches that have relevancies to this research. The first is “A Descriptive Analysis On Students’ Ability In Using Articles (*A, AN AND THE*) In Eleventh Grade Of MA AL-BIDAYAH CANDI, Bandungan In The Academic Year 2011-2012” by Mashadi (2013). He said the result of the study showed that the students’ ability in using article *a, an* and *the* are: 11 students out of 50 students or 22% the level of English grammar mastery is “good”, 32 students out of 50 students or 64% the level of English grammar mastery is “sufficient” and 7 students out of 50 students or 14% the level of English grammar mastery is “weak”.

The second relevant research is “An Analysis of The First Year Student’ Ability in Understaning Articles (*A, AN, THE*) Of English Department At Bung Hatta University” by Chaniago, et al (2014). The result of analysis showed that the students’ ability in understanding articles was moderate.

Other research was conducted by Putri (2007) entitled “An Error Analysis on Article Usage among First Semester Students of English Department Gunadarma University”. The aims of this research were to find out the ability of students in using and understanding the article. The result of the study showed that the highest percentage is 60% in category article “*the*”.

In 2008, Kusumaningrum was conducted a research entitled “An Error Analysis on Using the Definite and Indefinite Articles in Written Narrative text” which is done by the eleventh grade students of SMAN 1 Kendal. This research concluded that the students were still weak in acquiring English articles.

Tambunan & Atika in 2012 also held a research toward English article system. The sample of this research is three English textbooks for grade XII for Science and Social study program. These researchers would like to know to what extent the English article system was used in the textbooks and the teachers’ perspective of using English article system. They found out that “*the* for the clear situation” was the most commonly used in the textbooks (49,4%) and the teachers’ perspective showed that they had difficulty in teaching English article system, because of the time allocation for teaching was limited.

In the other nation context, Bedmar & Pepp (2008) held a research entitled “The Use of English Article System by Chinese and Spanish Learners”. The result of the study showed that Chinese learners are expected had more problem than Spanish learners in the use of English articles.

In 2011 a research about English article was conducted by Barret & Chen entitled “English Articles Errors in Taiwanese College Students’ EFL Writing. As a result, they found that the participants in this study had problems in using English article in terms of distinguish between definite and indefinite noun phrase.

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In conclusion, the similarities between these previous researches is the research design that the researcher used is also descriptive quantitative method and the object of the research is also about articles (a, an, the). Meanwhile, the differences between these previous researches is most of them is talking about articles' error.

### Operational Concept

1. The students are able to use article 'A' in front of singular noun
2. The students are able to use article 'An' in front of singular noun
3. The students are able to use article 'A' beginning with consonant sounds
4. The students are able to use article 'An' beginning with vowel sounds
5. The students are able to use article 'The' in front of singular count nouns
6. The students are able to use article 'The' in front of plural count nouns
7. The students are able to use 'The' in front of non-count nouns
8. The students are able to use article 'The' when the object are unique or consider to be unique
9. The students are able to use article 'The' before *superlatives and only*
10. The students are able to use article 'The' beginning with the preposition *of*.

UIN SUSKA RIAU

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